A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. James Walker for his meritorious efforts as president of Middle Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should honor those citizens who have made important achievements in their chosen fields and who have contributed significantly to the future of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Walker is one such remarkable person whose exceptional efforts as president of Middle Tennessee State University for the last four years and whose numerous contributions to the surrounding community should not go unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker has proven during his tenure at MTSU that he is more than capable of the herculean task of running a large and complex institution of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, serving with distinction, unparalleled devotion, and a genuine concern for others, Dr. Walker has earned the respect and esteem of MTSU students, employers, alumni, and community and state officials, and has proven that he is truly a consummate leader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker finds that "university work is very rewarding", and as a result has spent all but three years of his career as a devoted higher education professional; and

WHEREAS, serving as the head of a most important university requires a great deal of stamina, one of Dr. Walker's most impressive qualities; and

WHEREAS, despite the pressing demands of his work, Dr. Walker has unselfishly served on numerous boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, First City Bank, the United Way of Rutherford County, and the Regional Transportation Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, in additional to these distinguished appointments, Dr. Walker serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America and has put forth great effort with his division to raise an amazing \$1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, with tremendous knowledge, skill and desire, Dr. Walker has made countless contributions to his community that can be felt throughout Middle Tennessee and our great state; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor Dr.

James Walker, a giant in the field of education and a responsible and humane citizen; now, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Dr. James Walker on four successful years at MTSU and honor him for his generosity to the Middle Tennessee community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our most heartfelt thanks to Dr. Walker for his exceptional service to Tennessee's educational system and wish him much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

- 2 - *00401557*